

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

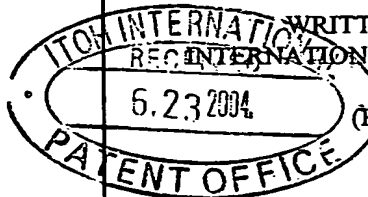
From the
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

PCT

To:

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WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

(PCT Rule 43bis.1)

Date of mailing
(day/month/year)

22. 6. 2004

Applicant's or agent's file reference

R03355PCT

FOR FURTHER ACTION

See paragraph 2 below

International application No.

PCT/JP2004/003431

International filing date (day/month/year)

15. 03. 2004

Priority date (day/month/year)

18. 03. 2003

International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC

Int.Cl. **B41J2/175**

Applicant

RICOH COMPANY, LTD.

1. This opinion contains indications relating to the following items:

- ☒ Box No. I Basis of the opinion
- ☐ Box No. II Priority
- ☐ Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- ☐ Box No. IV Lack of unity of invention
- ☒ Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- ☐ Box No. VI Certain documents cited
- ☒ Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application
- ☐ Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application

2. FURTHER ACTION

If a demand for international preliminary examination is made, this opinion will be considered to be a written opinion of the International Preliminary Examining Authority ("IPEA") except that this does not apply where the applicant chooses an Authority other than this one to be the IPEA and the chosen IPEA has notified the International Bureau under Rule 66.1bis(b) that written opinions of this International Searching Authority will not be so considered.

If this opinion is, as provided above, considered to be a written opinion of the IPEA, the applicant is invited to submit to the IPEA a written reply together, where appropriate, with amendments, before the expiration of 3 months from the date of mailing of Form PCT/ISA/220 or before the expiration of 22 months from the priority date, whichever expires later.

For further options, see Form PCT/ISA/220.

3. For further details, see notes to Form PCT/ISA/220.

Name and mailing address of the ISA/JP

Japan Patent Office

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WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

International Application No.

PCT/JP2004/003431

Box No. I

Basis of the opinion

1. With regard to the language, this opinion has been established on the basis of the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.
☐ This opinion has been established on the basis of a translation from the original language into the following language _____, which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rules 12.3 and 23.1(b)).
2. With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application and necessary to the claimed invention, this opinion has been established on the basis of:
 - a. type of material
☐ a sequence listing
☐ table(s) related to the sequence listing
 - b. format of material
☐ in written format
☐ in computer readable form
 - c. time of filing/furnishing
☐ contained in the international application as filed.
☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority for the purposes of search.
3. ☐ In addition, in the case that more than one version or copy of a sequence listing and/or table relating thereto has been filed or furnished, the required statements that the information in the subsequent or additional copies is identical to that in the application as filed or does not go beyond the application as filed, as appropriate, were furnished.
4. Additional comments:

WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

International Application No.

PCT/JP2004/ 003431

Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Claims	<u>1-46</u>	YES
	Claims		NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims	<u>1-46</u>	YES
	Claims		NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims	<u>1-46</u>	YES
	Claims		NO

2. Citations and explanations

Docment1:JP 2002-248784 A (SEIKO EPSON CORP.) 2002.09.03

Docment2:JP 2001-150691 A (MINOLTA CO., LTD.) 2001.06.05

Docment3:JP 7-323559 A (CANON INC.)1995.12.12

Docment4:JP 5-162333 A (CANON INC.)1993.06.29

The subject matter of claims 1-46 are novel, since it is not disclosed in any of the prior art documents cited in the international search report. In particular, [holding member used flexible ink bag includes: an ink filling opening for filling the bag body with ink; an ink discharging opening for discharge the ink inside the bag body; an engaging part for holding the ink bag to a cartridge case in which the ink bag is accommodated.] is not disclosed in D1-D4.

Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application

The following defects in the form or contents of the international application have been noted:

A claim 13 is unclear in invention about the "filling method", or invention about the "refilling method."

A claim 13 is unsuitable as a claim for which a claim 14 depends, if a claim 13 is invention about the "filling method", since a claim 14 is invention about the "refilling method."

A claim 13 is unsuitable as a claim for which a claim 15 depends, if a claim 13 is invention about "the refilling method from said ink filling opening", since a claim 15 is invention of "the refilling method from forming any of a rupture part to a part of said bag main body of said ink bag".

All the above indication is;
the claim which depends, and the claim depended are not unified by either "the filling method" or the "refilling method".
It is because multiple dependent form claim was changed into unary dependent form at the time of translation.

The claim 22 should depend the claim 18.